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FOREIGN PRESS REVIEW

## How X-Day Was Engineered in Germany

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THE reactionary press in every country is trying to paint a false picture of the events in Berlin on June 17. The organizers of this fascist provocation are anxious to hide the fact that it had been prepared long in advance by the West-German revanchists and their American patrons with the express purpose of preventing the unification of Germany and of creating a danger to peace in Europe. The version now spread by reactionary papers is that the disorders in Berlin were "spontaneous." Yet reports in the German, and especially West-German, press make it possible to reconstruct all the details of the plot engineered by foreign hirelings, to trace how it was engineered and with what purpose.

The German democratic press, immediately after the Berlin events, pointed out that they were an attempt to deliver a blow at the German Democratic Republic, German unity and European peace, a blow that had long been planned by West-German revanchists under the code name of "X-day."

The very name, X-day, is borrowed from Hitler. The nazis planned many an "X-day," "X-day minus one," "X-day plus two," and so on, and in all their schemes X-day stood for some secretly prepared act of aggression. May 10, 1940 (the invasion of Belgium, Holland and Luxemburg) was designated as X-day, so was June 22, 1941, when Hitler attacked the Soviet Union.

Bonn Minister Jakob Kaiser revived the term in March 1952, during a series of meetings with his political friends in West Berlin. At one of these conferences, held on March 24 at 216/218 Bundesallee, Kaiser announced:

"It is quite possible that X-day will come earlier than certain sceptics are inclined to believe."

Commenting on this conference, the West-German bourgeois *Der Spiegel*, a well-informed journal, stated that X-day was the day appointed for the *integration of Eastern Germany into the Federal Republic*.

"The over-all plan for the seizure of administrative power is practically ready," *Der Spiegel* wrote. "Now that Federal Chancellor Adenauer has signed the general treaty, all that is lacking is a pretext to put the plan into practice."

The West-Berlin *Tag* (a Kaiser mouthpiece) came out on March 25, 1952, with the slogan: "For X-day!" *Der Telegraf*, in an article captioned: "Preparations for X-day" explained that the idea was "to prepare for the day when the territory of the Soviet occupation zone will be redeemed." In other words, X-day was obviously designated by the Bonn revanchists as the hour for an attack on the German Democratic Republic by fascist forces from West Germany.

One of the authors of this plan, Jakob Kaiser, is an individual who merits closer examination. The early years following the defeat of the nazis found him in the Soviet zone as leader of the Christian-Democratic Union posing as a "genuine anti-fascist." But it was not long before the mask was discarded and Kaiser fled to the West, where, since 1949, he has been in charge of a Bonn institution known by the cryptic name of "Ministry for General German Questions." In Germany Kaiser's department has been dubbed, and

quite rightly, "Ministry for the Splitting of Germany." It has become the centre of espionage and sabotage against the GDR and democratic organizations in West Germany. The dispersal of German unity meetings and demonstrations in the Bonn republic, the publication of libellous pamphlets and the organization of terrorist groups all come within the functions of Kaiser's Ministry.

The Minister himself is a leader of Adenauer's party, in which the plan originated to "unite Germany" by forcibly incorporating the Eastern part into the Bonn state which is being built up after the fascist pattern. The French *Année Politique et Economique* quoted Adenauer at the beginning of the year for the statement that "the time would come when at the head of a resurrected Wehrmacht he would achieve unification of the two zones."

Kaiser and his lieutenants openly threatened an attack on the German Democratic Republic. Last autumn, Thedieck, State Secretary in Kaiser's Ministry, publicly declared that the "liberation of the Soviet zone" was the "supreme and cardinal political task of the Federal Republic." On September 29, 1952, Adenauer's *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* quoted this statement by Kaiser, broadcast over the American radio in Berlin:

"Unfortunately, the question of reuniting Germany and liberating the Soviet zone cannot be solved by simple means. But this does not mean that we should remain passive onlookers."

And ex-State Secretary von Rohr, notorious West-German reactionary spokesman, bluntly stated in his magazine, *Stimmen zur Agrarwissenschaft*:

"We need tanks to liberate our brothers on the other side of the curtain."

Preparations for carrying out the Adenauer-Kaiser plan began long ago. In March 1952 a special "Research Council" was set up to advise the Bonn government "in the event" of the German Democratic Republic being integrated in the West-German state. Its functions, *Der Spiegel* wrote, would be to

"work out a detailed action program of immediate transitional measures in the event of power being seized in the Soviet zone."

The composition of this "research" agency casts a lurid light on its nature and purposes.

It is headed by Dr. Friedrich Ernst, chairman of the board of the Berliner Zentralbank and a director of the AEG electrical concern. Under Hitler, Dr. Ernst was Reichskommissar for credits, and subsequently Reichskommissar for "enemy property," that is, the official in charge of plundering foreign property. Besides, Ernst is owner of several factories in the GDR which have been turned over to the people, and this undoubtedly explains his penchant for subversive activities against the Republic.

Another big businessman appointed to the Council is Spennrath, head of the AEG (30 per cent of all the shares of which belong to the U.S. General Electric). There are some big landowners on the Council too, notably von Zitzewitz, who owned 2,654 hectares in Eastern Germany. And lastly there are representatives of reactionary West-German parties, including four Bundestag deputies.

Besides the "Research Council," another organization was set up in Bonn, according to the *Neue Zeitung*, to prepare for X-day. This was the Special Ministerial Committee which had the same functions as the Council. These and similar agencies, the *Manchester Guardian* reported in April, had drawn up a complete list of factories in the German Democratic Republic that were to be returned to their former owners.

Kaiser set up a branch office of his Ministry in Berlin—"Branch X"—to handle practical preparations for the provocation.

It will be recalled that towards the close of last year, the terroristic activities of an organization known as the Technical Service of the German Youth League were exposed in West Germany. Among other things, it was discovered that the organization had its own arms depots and was plotting terroristic acts. It had a card index of people listed for assassination. One of its instructions read:

"Every card must indicate whether the person listed on it is to be arrested or removed on X-day."

And this from another set of instructions:

"The actions scheduled for X-day must be carried out with lightning speed, as soon as the signal is given by the directing bodies."

Again the plan centres around X-day. And as in the Kaiser scheme, X-day is the code name for a fascist putsch. The Technical Service

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worked in very close contact with Kaiser, so close in fact that the matter came up even in the Bonn Bundestag. Dr. Menzel, Social-Democrat, told the Bundestag that Kaiser's State Secretary, Thedieck, had on two occasions issued large subsidies to the fascist German Youth League and had had meetings with its leaders.

The fascists belonging to the Youth League shared actively in the Berlin provocation. One of the hoodlums arrested in Eastern Berlin, Horst Hertel, testified that he was a member of this terrorist organization, which was directed by Americans. On June 13 the group to which Hertel belonged was called together and told that

"disorders were to be provoked in the democratic sector of Berlin and in the German Democratic Republic."

On June 17, together with other ruffians, Hertel was sent into the Eastern sector of the city where he helped stir up disturbances and riots.

Kaiser enlisted also the services of various revanchist and fascist groups. The *Frankfurter Rundschau*, a bourgeois paper, recently reported close connections between Kaiser's Ministry and a group of nazi conspirators headed by Naumann, who was State Secretary under Hitler. This group included such prominent nazis as former Gauleiters Florian, Kaufmann and Frauenfeld and SS Generals Hausser, Gille and Steiner.

Naturally, preparations for X-day were not confined to Kaiser's Ministry. Throughout West Germany, and particularly in West Berlin, many fascist organizations were, and still are, at work to bring the whole of Germany under the control of the reactionary forces. That too is the purpose of the reactionary political parties and official agencies of the Bonn government, of the revanchist ex-servicemen's associations and of the clandestine terrorist bands, all of which were given a free hand by the Western occupation powers.

Why did the foreign hirelings and West-German monopolies select Berlin as the centre of their provocation? Apparently because the sectors controlled by the Western powers could serve as a convenient operational base from which fascist elements could penetrate into the city.

The directors of the American and other espionage services exploited the desire of the population of the GDR to maintain contact with Germans in the Western part of the country. And into the Eastern sector of Berlin, opened to the working people, came fascist spies.

There are dozens of spy rings and terrorist organizations in West Berlin. The *Berliner Zeitung* counted more than twenty of them. All of them were actively preparing for X-day, enlisting new agents and publishing all manner of slanderous leaflets. Most of these centres are under Kaiser's Ministry, and all of them are controlled by foreign intelligence services.

The reactionary leaders in West Berlin and particularly Ernst Reuter, the West-Berlin mayor, engaged in subversive propaganda aimed at inciting Germans against Germans and supported the revanchist conspiracies. Early in April Reuter referred to important events "that would take place not in April or May," but at any rate in the near future. About a month later he announced that "we may be nearing a critical moment."

These facts about the preparations for X-day have become public knowledge. But the picture of reactionary activities would be incomplete without some reference to the back-stage forces that directed the preparations.

In these past months certain foreign circles have shown a very marked interest in West Berlin, regarding it as a suitable base for operations against the German Democratic Republic. This is evidenced by the following reports relating to the last six months.

February 1953. A special commission of the U.S. Mutual Security Agency arrives in Berlin. At a press conference in Washington, Dulles makes a statement on West Berlin. This is what he said, as quoted by the American-controlled *Neue Zeitung* of February 20:

"American officials recently inspected stocks of food and other essential commodities, and also all the approaches to the frontiers of the Soviet sector and the Soviet zone. It would not be advisable at this juncture to make public the new steps taken by the U.S. government in this matter."

March 1953. Samuel Reber, deputy U.S. High Commissioner, arrives in Berlin. Ernst Reuter visits the United States where he has

talks with Dulles and Stassen and is received by Eisenhower.

April 1953. Two American Congressmen, and later Defence Secretary Wilson, visit Berlin.

May 1953. Dulles announces that special stocks have been concentrated in West Berlin to meet possible complications. A special State Department commission headed by Tracy Voorhees arrives in Berlin. It includes General William Donovan, former U.S. strategic intelligence chief.

June 1953. Anderson, assistant to the special representative of the Mutual Security Agency in Europe, arrives in Berlin early in the month. Less than a week later, Eleanor Dulles, sister of the U.S. Secretary of State and herself a State Department official, arrives in Bonn to "study the Berlin question." On June 15, the press announces a "surprise visit" to Berlin by General Ridgway.

Viewed in the light of the June 17 events, these visits acquire a very definite significance: to all intents and purposes they were inspection tours to verify the preparations for the June provocation and to review the forces that were to carry it out.

Western Power spokesmen are now at pains to disassociate themselves from this provocation, which met with utter failure. But it is no secret that the Western occupation authorities have for a long time, and systematically, encouraged the activities of the groups and organizations that tried to pull off the June 17 action. No small share of the celebrated 100 million dollars which the U.S. Congress allocated for financing subversive activities went to them.

A few weeks before June 17, people living in Kreuzberg, West Berlin, saw joint training manoeuvres by American troops and West-Berlin police. This was a rehearsal for X-day. Court trials of spies and saboteurs in the German Democratic Republic in 1952 and 1953 proved that foreign intelligence officers were directing the operations of these German hirelings.

Representatives of the Western occupation authorities not only instigated and financed the bandits who were to come out in the open on X-day. People in the democratic sector of Berlin saw American officers working together

with the fascist bands that staged the disorders. American planes dropped leaflets, prepared long beforehand, over the democratic sector. American officers armed and instructed the hoodlums and pointed out the buildings that were to be attacked or fired. One of their hirelings, Werner Kalkowski, arrested on the day of the provocation, testified as follows:

"We were instructed to attack government buildings, set fire to and rob shops, kill members of the People's Police and in general to use firearms against the government authorities...."

These facts have become so well known that now, when the organizers of the provocation are trying to disclaim all responsibility, they are exposed even by some statements in the Atlantic press. For example, the London *Economist* wrote of the Berlin incidents:

"Here, surely, is the kind of climax towards which the propaganda of the BBC, the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe has been working for years."

A United Press report says that several U.S. Congressmen have intimated that the riots in Berlin must be credited to the "propaganda efforts" of the United States and to the clandestine use of secret government funds. Senator Potter declared that the riots in the democratic sector of Berlin, like the adventurist actions staged in the past by foreign agents in Czechoslovakia, were not accidental and were stimulated by U.S. efforts.

The Press Association reports that Stephen Davies, Labour MP, tabled a motion protesting against the financing of the West-German fascists and their incitement to provocative actions in East Berlin. The motion urges the British government to make the strongest representations to the American government

"to cease its provocative acts for whose committal large sums of money have admittedly been granted by the American government."

The facts show that the Berlin provocation can be traced to the occupation authorities in West Germany.

This fascist provocation of foreign hirelings ended in failure. The German people administered a resolute rebuff to the fascists. But the events in Berlin are a serious signal for vigilance by the peoples of the world.